

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 06012 211251Z

44

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

EUR-10 L-03 PRS-01 NEA-06 AID-10 PM-03 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /064 W

----- 021103

O R 211145Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T KINSHASA 6012

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, UG, CG

SUBJECT: US-UGANDIAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 142291

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU RECEIVED ME LAST EVENING AT HIS RESIDENCE TO HEAR OUR REACTION TO AMIN'S REQUEST THAT HE LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND UGANDA.

2. DRAWING ON REFTEL AND PREVIOUS I EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION OF MOBUTU'S OFFER AND OUR GRATIFICATION AT THIS MOVE BY AMIN TO DEMONSTRATE HIS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS. I SAID WE HAD ALWAYS HAD EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH UGANDA AND IT IS OUR SINCERE WISH THAT NORMAL RELATIONS BE RESTORED, AS WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO INDICATE DIRECTLY TO AMIN. HOWEVER, BY HIS STATEMENTS, MESSAGES TO OUR PRESIDENT AND HIS ACTION, AMIN HAS INDICATED A LACK OF TRUST IN US AND ANY REAL DESIRE FOR NORMAL RELATIONS. HE HAS ALSO MADE IT INCREASINGLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US EFFECTIVELY TO OPERATE PROGRAMS LIKE AID AND PC IN HIS COUNTRY. OUR WITHDRAWAL OF THESE PROGRAMS WAS NOT DUE TO OUR LACK OF DESIRE FOR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KINSHA 06012 211251Z

GOOD RELATIONS TO BE HELPFUL TO UGANDA BUT SIMPLY TO OUR

PRACTICAL INABILITY UNDER PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES TO CONTINUE THEM. I THEN RAN THROUGH BRIEFLY THE MANY INCIDENTS TO WHICH I WAS REFERRING, ADDING I WAS DOING SO IN SORROW RATHER THAN ANGER AND THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO REITERATE THEM WITH AMIN. I WAS SIMPLY DESCRIBING THEM SO THAT HE WOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS SAYING ABOUT OUR INABILITY TO DO OTHERWISE THAN WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

3. MOBUTU SHOOK HIS HEAD AND LAUGHED AT SOME OF MY RECITAL OF THE INCIDENTS AND SAID I HAD TOLD HIM LITTLE HE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW, AND THAT IT WAS PRETTY SHOCKING. HE ADDED THAT AMIN HAD NOT SPARED HIM EITHER AND ALLUDED TO THE INCIDENT WHEN AMIN MADE HIM OUT A LIAR (HIS WORD) AFTER HE HAD OBTAINED AMIN'S PROMISE TO PROLONG THE PERIOD ACCORDED THE ASIANS FOR THEIR DEPARTURE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD, DURING HIS RECENT TALKS WITH AMIN IN UGANDA, MENTIONED A NUMBER OF THESE MATTERS, PARTICULARLY THE QUESTION OF THE PCVS IN ENTEBBE WHICH HAD EMBARRASSED AFRICA AND CAUSED AN UNNECESSARY PROBLEM. MOBUTU ADDED, AS HE HAD IN OUR LAST CONVERSATION, THAT AMIN IS AN INSECURE PERSON AND THAT HE HAD ALSO FALLEN DEEPLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF QADHAFI. VIRTUALLY NO ONE IN BLACK AFRICA SAVE MOBUTU WAS NOW TALKING TO HIM.

IN ORDER TO ATTAIN ZAIRE'S POLICY GOAL OF STABILITY ON ITS BORDERS MOBUTU SAID HE HAD STARTED, DURING THE RECENT OAU SUMMIT MEETING, TO TRY TO CHECK QADHAFI'S EFFORTS TO EXPORT TO BLACK AFRICA HIS PERCULIAR BRAND OF MUSLIM NATIONALISM AND HIS HATRED OF ISRAEL. HE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED AT THE LIBYAN INTRUSIONS INTO UGANDA, BURUNDI AND CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE AND IT WAS HE WHO HAD BLOCKED THE LIBYAN EFFORT AT THE OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS TO CALL ON THE AFRICAN STATES TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. AT ADDIS, HE HAD BEGUN WORKING, AS HE PUT IT, IN THE CORRIDORS, TO PERSUADE AMIN OF THE UNWISDOM OF ADDING ADDITIONAL INSTABILITY AND OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS TO THE ALREADY MORE THAN ADEQUATE NUMBER THAT FACED CENTRAL AFRICA. THIS HAD LED TO AMIN'S INVITATION TO HIM TO VISIT UGANDA, DURING WHICH HE HAD CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS TO DEMONSTRATE TO AMIN THE DANGEROUS NATURE OF QADHAFI'S INFLUENCE, TO GIVE HIM A SENSE OF DIRECTION (FOCUSING HIM ON DOMESTIC AND REGIONAL PROBLEMS), AND TO OFFER HIM SUCH ASSISTANCE AS ZAIRE COULD GIVE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KINSHA 06012 211251Z

5. MOBUTU THEN ASKED WHAT SPECIFICALLY WE THOUGHT AMIN COULD DO TO HELP MOVE RELATIONS BACK TO NORMAL, AND WHAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO. I REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT AMIN HAD TAKEN A VALUABLE FIRST STEP IN MAKING THIS DEMARCHE, WHICH WE WELCOMED, BUT THAT GOOD RELATIONS HAD TO BE REBUILT BY CONTINUING A FRIENDLY ATTITUDE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN HE RECEIVED REPORTS ALLEGING NEFANEOUS ACTIONS BY AMERICANS HE SHOULD CHECK THEM OUT WITH OUR EMBASSY

BEFORE ACTING, ADDING THAT WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED THAT HE HAD HELD THE PCVS WITHOUT CHECKING THE STORY WITH US BUT RATHER TRYING TO CHECK IT WITH A NUMBER OF OTHERS. SIMILARLY, HE HAD MADE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT AMERICAN MISSIONAIRES IN UGANDA AND GENERALLY DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN US. I ADDED THAT WE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME REGARDING RESUMPTION OF OUR PROGRAMS BUT THAT CONSIDERATION OF THIS HAD TO AWAIT DEVELOPING RELATIONS. HE INTERJECTED THAT HE GATHERED AMIN'S IMMEDIATE INTEREST WAS IN HAVING A NEW AMBASSADOR NAMED RATHER THAN IN THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. I REPLIED THAT I COULD MAKE NO PREDICTION ON THAT SCORE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF AMIN'S MESSAGES TO OUR PRESIDENT.

6. MOBUTU REPLIED BY SAYING HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY OUR POSITION AND THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO STOP BRIEFLY IN UGANDA ON HIS RETURN FROM DAR TO KINSHASA JULY 22 TO HAVE ANOTHER TALK WITH AMIN. I REPLIED THAT THIS WAS OF COURSE A MATTER FOR HIS JUDGMENT, THAT WE HAD NOT BEEN SURE THIS COULD NOT AWAIT ANOTHER OCCASION. HE SAID THAT HE FELT STRONGLY IT WOULD BE WISER FOR HIM TO SEE AMIN NOW, BOTH TO CONTINUE THE MOMENTUM WHICH HAD BEEN INITIATED WITH REGARD TO AMIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US BUT ALSO TO CONTINUE HIS GENERAL EFFORTS WITH AMIN.

7. FINALLY, MOBUTU REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT HIS DEMARCHE WITH US AND THE BRITISH ON BEHALF OF AMIN WOULD BE VERY CLOSELY HELD AND NOT REACH THE PRESS.
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINSHA06012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 VANCE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730718/aaaaaned.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 142291
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-UGANDIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UG, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005